

Northern Virginia Regional Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
January 28, 2004

In Attendance:

Jane Anthony, NVTC Parent/PAIR
Roger Biraben, Loudoun CSB
Mary Burger, Loudoun CSB
Mark Diorio, NVTC
Lynn DeLacy, NVMHI
Joan Durman
Tom Geib, Prince William CSB
Mike Gilmore, Alexandria CSB
Amanda Goza, NVMHI
Wendy Gradison, PRS
Betsy Greer, Arlington CSB (Board Member)

Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Leslie Katz, NVTC
Cindy Kemp, Arlington CSB
Edwin H. Kline, Jr.
Cathy Pumphrey, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Lou Rosato, NVMHI
Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Carol Ulrich, Northern Virginia NAMI
Leslie Weisman, Arlington CSB
L. William Yolton, Northern Virginia NAMI

1. Announcements

- The group congratulated Cindy Kemp on her appointment as Executive Director of the Arlington CSB.
- Jim Thur reported that he did two presentations on the work of the Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Project, one to a regional group of human services officials, the other to the chief administrative officers of the region. Jim did a PowerPoint presentation (which is available on website, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/csb/region/partnershipmain.htm>), and indicated there was a good level of interest in the project, including a lengthy discussion about inpatient beds in the area. The chief administrative officers had never had a regional picture presented to them before. The groups also discussed charity care.
- Jim Thur indicated that the Partnership group will be working to finish deliberations by March or April at the latest, and then go back to community for feedback, with forums to be held around the region.
- Jim Thur briefly reviewed a handout on the “Six Year Financial Plan for FY 2004-2010” for the State. Jim noted it is the first time the State has done this planning, which is the result of legislation that passed last year. Jim briefly reviewed the projected deficits, and noted that level funding is projected for the entire period for community mental health/mental retardation programs.
- Rev. Bill Yolton indicated that the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) has filed suit against DMHMRSAS. The suit seeks to force DMHMRSAS to release to VOPA the names of persons on the “extraordinary barriers to discharge list,” which the Department wouldn’t provide in response to a prior Virginia Freedom of Information Act request.

2. Approval of Notes from October 22, 2003 Meeting

The notes of the October 22, 2003 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Updates:

- **Mental Health Work Group** – Leslie Weisman reported that the group met on January 14, and now has subgroups focusing on forensics, co-occurring disorders and recovery. Sharon Letourneau is heading the Recovery group and is seeking persons from around the region to work with the group to determine what's being done in each region. A meeting of the Recovery group is scheduled for February 4, and the group also plans to hold a Recovery conference at some point. Leslie reported that the Forensics group has met several times and is collecting data on 29 NGRI patients to see how to possibly expedite their discharges. Leslie noted that typically the persons who have most difficulties following release are those with co-occurring disorders. The group is also reviewing discharge planning in jails. Leslie reported that the newest group, Co-Occurring Disorders, met on December 18 and is headed up by Chris Kolakoski from Prince William. That group will review their mission and work to not duplicate efforts with the State special population work groups.
- **MR/MI Work Group** – Mark Diorio distributed status reports for the State special populations work groups. Mark indicated that the MR/MI work group of the Partnership is trying to coordinate their efforts across the state-wide groups. Mark reported the Training subgroup is developing dual diagnosis information package for parents, and will be contacting private hospitals to see if they would like training on handling dual diagnosis issues. A subgroup is being formed on MR/MI funding issues. Mark also indicated there is a need for assistance with the problem with lack of reliable data on dual diagnoses. Mark noted that information is being gathered from English medical journals, as they are further along in treating dual diagnosis, and the Work Group is collaborating with George Mason University on the possibility of incorporating the English DSM-MR into the DSM-IV.
- **State Restructuring Policy Advisory Committee (RPAC)** – Lynn DeLacy indicated that she attended a meeting where the group heard from the different reinvestment projects around the state. Notable discussions included the Department identifying three areas for success determination (recovery/promotion of self-determination, real partnership, and leadership for the coordination of policy and funding streams). Lynn indicated there was a focus on the Olmstead act as a means of get budget initiatives through. The RPAC group discussed problems accessing beds as well as involving the academic community in projecting how many psychiatric beds are needed in each region. Jane Anthony indicated that she sits on the Olmstead Task Force and would welcome input on the issues. RPAC will work with the regional restructuring groups as well as special population work groups on ongoing issues. The group discussed unfunded State mandates to the facilities, with Mark Diorio noting that with the new Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA) the Northern Virginia Training Center will be charged a set monthly fee for each item, which will amount to more than they've ever been allocated before. Lynn added that State facilities will also have to upgrade their computer equipment to meet VITA standards, but have not been given funding to pay for this.
- **Utilization Management/Discharge Planning Workgroup** – Sharon Jones indicated she is serving on this group along with Mike Gilmore and Lynn DeLacy. The mission of this statewide group is still being defined, but they are likely to review and potentially revise the existing discharge planning protocols. The group is looking at existing Utilization

Management procedures and collecting information on what's already in place around the state.

- Private Psychiatric Hospitals Update – George Barker was unable to attend the meeting. Jim Thur indicated there are proposals which are still in process from Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) to close and relocate beds, with no new news. Inova is also in the process of making decisions on Mount Vernon Hospital in total and the psychiatric unit of Alexandria Hospital. Decisions on these matters are likely to be finalized in the next 30-60 days.

4. Meeting with Regional CSA Coordinators

Jim Thur explained that the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) coordinates services for at-risk youth and the Community Policy Management Team (CPMT) manages the CSA funds. Jim and Joan Duman met with the regional CSA coordinators to see their interest level for taking the lead on reviewing children's services, with assistance from regional CSB staff. The regional coordinators will be consulting with the regional CPMT on this subject. Joan indicated that legislation makes the CPMT responsible for planning children's services; areas they identified as needing their immediate attention are treatment services for foster care children and sex offender treatment. Joan commented that the group appeared to already be on top of some major children's issues, and were excited about this potential collaborative effort.

5. Regional Representation on RPAC Special Population Work Groups

Jim Thur referred the group to the membership lists for the Restructuring Policy Advisory Committee, noting that the State would be happy to have more people join the groups, and the Northern Virginia area may need more active representation. Carol Ulrich added that she would like to see more people from Northern Virginia join the groups. Group members commented on the need more people on the Forensic group who have a background on NGRIs in the hospital setting, the group is currently skewed towards the substance abuse population. Loudoun has someone who could work on that group; Jim agreed to submit that person's name. Amanda Goza and Leslie Weisman can also alternate attending as well. Jim asked that the Loudoun representative on the Child and Adolescent group provide the Steering Committee with a briefing on that group's activities. Mark Diorio indicated the MR workgroup member list is current, with the addition of Ray Burmester. Mark noted that work is being done to dovetail the myriad of workgroups to be sure they have similar goals and limit their work to key issues. Jim noted that the SA and Geropsych member lists were unavailable, but the region is underrepresented on the SA group; Jim will ask the regional SA directors to be involved in that group. Jim added that if Henriette Kellum is on the Geropsych group, then the region is well represented. Mark encouraged participation on MR group.

6. Other Business

- Jim Thur briefly reviewed the Partnership work plan. Each group is scheduled to have the data collection process complete before April, then go out to do "road shows" no later than May in community forums and consumer focus groups. Simultaneously, Joan Duman will work on the final report, which is due in August. Because of the extensive work the MH work group has undertaken, it is unlikely their work will be complete in the spring; it was agreed to encourage them to do as much as they can until July. The Structural Work Group will be examining the issue of whether to wrap up the Partnership by July or continue

working, and will make a recommendation to the Steering Committee. Draft recommendations should be ready to review at the March 24 Steering Committee meeting.

- Carol Ulrich asked about SB 604, an emergency treatment order statute. Carol noted that the Senate has reworded the statute to add language about persons being “substantially unable” to care for themselves, and asked that advocates keep an eye on that potential legislation. Jim Thur indicated that he will be working on this issue at the State level.
- Rev. Bill Yolton reported that there is a bill which proposed to remove the power of State Inspector General, with only annual unannounced inspections.
- Betsy Greer announced that Cindy Kemp gave a presentation to the Arlington NAMI group on the Partnership which was well received.

Next Meeting:

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2004 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Rooms 2/3.

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